A Brief Deſcription of an Edition of the *Bible*, in the Original *Hebr. Samar.* and *Greek*, with the moſt ancient Tranſlations of the *Jewiſh* and *Chriſtian Churches*, *viz.* The *Sept. Greek*, *Chaldee*, *Syriack*, *Æthiopick*, *Arabick*, *Perſian*, *&c.* and the *Latine* verſions of them all, A new *Apparatus*, *&c.*

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WHereas the ground of Faith is the Word of God, contained in the Scriptures, it muſt needs be a work of higheſt conſequence to preſerve thoſe *Sacred Oracles* in their original purity, freed (as much as may be) from all poſſibility of Error, that may ariſe either by the negligence of Scribes, and injury of Times, or by the wilful corruption of Sectaries and Hereticks, which (as was foretold) abound in theſe latter times, and ſo to tranſmit them to Poſterity.

The uſe of ancient Copies and Tranſlations compared with the Text.

To this end nothing can more conduce then the publiſhing of the *Original Text*, according to the beſt Copies and Editions, with the moſt ancient *Trarſlations*, which have been of greraeſt Authority in the Church, eſpecially thoſe of the *Eaſtern Languages*; which in regard of their affinity and neerneſſe to the Original are fitteſt to expreſſe, and in regard of their Antiquity and general uſe in the firſt and pureſt Ages are the trueſt Glaſſes, to repreſent that ſence and reading which was then generally received in the Church of Chriſt, to whoſe Care the cuſtody of the Scriptures is committed: The comparing of which together hath alwayes been accounted one of the beſt means to attain the true ſence in places doubtful, and to finde out and reſtore the true reading of the Text where any variety appears.

Beſides this, the *Harmonie* and *Conſent* of ſo many ancient Copies and Tranſlations made in ſeveral Ages, and Parts of the World, ſo far remote one from another, and continued to this day, agreeing in all matters of moment, are no leſſe the voice of God teſtifying from Heaven that thoſe Books proceeded from a divine Author, who hath ſo marvellouſly owned and preſerved them in all parts of the World among ſo many changes and revolutions that have happened, maugre the malice and power of Sathan, labouring by Hereticks, and Sectaries to corrupt, and by Perſecutors to extirpate the Scriptures, and therewith Chriſtian Religion.

Therefore in the greateſt Empires and Kingdoms of the World, God hath ſo ordered by his wiſe Providence, that the Scriptures have been either originally written, or tranſlated into theſe Languages, and by that means ſpread over the World (though beſides the intention of the Conquerours) as appears by the *Hebrew* and *Greek* Originals, the *Syriack*, *Chaldee*, *Perſian*, *Arabick*, *Latin*, *Ethiopick*, and other Tranſlations, in which the Praiſes of God have been ſounded forth over the World, by means of the *Aſſyrian*, *Greek*, *Perſian*, *Romans*, *&c.* Conqueſts and Victories.

Origens Tetrapla, Hexapla, &c.

Hence it was that when *Origen* compoſed his *Tetrapla*, *Hexapla*, and *Octopla*, though they conſiſted onely of the *Hebrew* and diverſe *Greek* Tranſlations diſpoſed in ſeveral Columns, yet they were received with ſuch general applauſe, that as S. *Hierom* ſaith, they preſently filled all Libraries.

The like care hath been taken in this laſt Age, by ſundry Editions of the Original Texts, and of ſundry ancient Tranſlations, made by the Pains and Induſtry of Learned Men, and by the munificence of *Princes* and others, yet none of them are ſo compleat and perfect (though of great uſe and high eſteem in the Church) but that the diligence of thoſe that come after, may adde ſomething to perfect the work which they begun, as the Authors of thoſe Editions have done to thoſe before them.

The chief Editions of this laſt age.

The chief Editions of this laſt Age (not to mention thoſe by *Bamberg*, *Vatablus*, *Buxtorf*. *Stephan. Munſter*, *Hutter*, and others) are 1. The *Complutenſe*. 2. The *Antwerp*. 3. The *Pariſian*.

1. The *Complutenſe* was ſet forth by the *Complutenſe* Divines, at the charges of Cardinal *Ximineus*, Arch-Biſhop of *Toledo* in ſix Volumes, *Anno* 1520, wherein is contained, 1. The Old Teſt. *Heb.* 2. The vulgar *Latine*. 3. The Sept. *Greek* and *Latine*. 4. The *Chaldee* Paraphraſe by *Onkelos* upon the *Pentateuch*, with the Latine Tranſlation. 5. The New Teſtament Greek and Latine. 6. An *Apparatus*, conſiſting of an Heb. and Chald. *Lexicon*. An Heb. Grammar, An Index, &c.

2. The *Antwerp* Bibles in eight great Volumes, ſet forth by *Arias Montanus*, and other Learned Men, at the charges of the King of *Spain*, *Anno* 1572. wherein is added to the *Complutenſe*, 1. The *Chaldee Paraphraſe* upon the reſt of the Old Teſtament, by *Jonathan* and *Joſephus Cacus*, with the Latine. 2. The Interlineal Tranſlation of the Old and New Teſtament. 3. The *Syriack* New Teſtament in Syriack and Hebrew Characters with the Latine. 4. An *Apparatus* in two Volumes, containing divers *Lexicons* and *Grammars*, *Hebrew*, *Syriack*, *Chaldee*, *Greek*, with ſome Tracts for better underſtanding the Text. Some *Idiotiſms*, few various readings, divers *Indices*, &c.

3. The *Pariſian Bibles* in ten large Tomes, *Anno* 1645. ſet forth by *Michael de Jay*, *Morinus*, *Gabriel Sionita* and others, by Authority of the Cardinals *Richlieu*, and *Mazarine*, and the *French Biſhops*, wherein is added to the *Antwerpe* Bible, which (except the *Apparatus*) is herewith reprinted, 1. The old Teſt. *Syriack*, and *Latine*. 2. The *Arabick* Old Teſt. and New with the Latine. 3. The *Samaritan* Pentateuch, with the *Samaritan* and *Latine* Verſions. But here is no Interlineal or other literal Tranſlation of the *Hebrew* in *Latine*, none of the *Apparatus* at all as in the other Editions, no *various readings* in any Language, no *Index*, no *Idiotiſms*, (the edition being abruptly put forth, by reaſon of ſome difference among the Publiſhers) but only the *Text* in the ſeveral Languages, and thoſe not according to the beſt Copies.

Though theſe Editions be juſtly had in high eſteem, (the ſecond of which was ſtyled by ſome Learned Men, *Orbis miraculum*, though it come ſhort of the third) yet it muſt be confeſt that divers *Ancient* and *Vſeful Tranſlations* may be added, that there are *better Copies* now, then thoſe followed in the former Editions, that many things uſeful then, yet needleſſe now may be taken away, that a new *Apparatus* far more uſeful may be framed, and the ſeveral Languages digeſted in better Method, beſidas the greatneſſe of the price, and vaſtneſſe of the Volumes, which makes them ſcarce uſeful for private Libraries, being printed in ſuch *Paper* and *Characters*, as ſerved rather for *Pomp* then *Vſe*, (that of *Paris* being ſold at 45. or 50 li. the price of an ordinary *Librarie*) ſo that without detracting from the juſt praiſes of the publiſhers (whoſe Labours muſt be made uſe of, as they did of other mens that were before them) it may be ſaid, that a *more perfect* and *uſeful Edition* then any yet extant may be made in 5 or 6 *ordinary Volumes*, which may be had at a fourth or fift *part of the price* of thoſe of *Paris*, or thereabouts. The ſeveral parts whereof follow.

A new Edition more perfect and uſeful then any yet extant, and at a far leſſe price.

1. The Old Teſtament *Heb.* and the New Teſt. *Greek*, with the literal *Interlineal Tranſlation* which is wanting in the *Paris* and *Complutenſe Bibles*.

2. The *Vulgar Latine* according to the accurate Edition of *Sixtus Quintus*, and *Clem.* 8. wherein many 1000 errors and faults of the former Editions are corrected, as appears by the *Catalogue* ſet forth by *Lucas Brugenſis*.

3. The *Roman Sept.* the *Greek* whereof was printed by the moſt ancient *Vatican* Copy, written (as is conceived) before S. *Hieroms* time, which is without doubt the moſt *authentick* of any yet extant. The *Latine*

was gathered out of the Monuments of the moſt *ancient* Writers, by the great induſtry of *Nobilius*, whereby the old *vulgar Latine* uſed in the *Weſt* (before S. *Hieroms* Tranſlation) is reſtored and preſerved: whereas the *Sept.* followed in the other Editions is made only to agree with the *Modern Heb.* and accordingly enlarged or cut ſhort, and may better be called a new *Greek* Tranſlation of the *Modern Heb.* then a true Edition of the *Old Septuagint.*

4. The *Chaldee Paraphraſe* on the Old Teſt. by *Onkelos* upon the *Pentateuch*, and by *Jonathan* upon *Joſh. Judg. Sam. Kings*, and *Prophets*, about our Saviours time; and by *Joſ. Cæcus* upon the reſt, written afterwards. All according to *Buxtorf.* his exact Edition, wherein many thouſand errors are corrected, and the *Points* which were added by ſome ignorant Jew after the invention of *Points*, are rectified and reduced to the Analogie of *Ezra* and *Daniel*, which was only in part attempted by *Arias Montanus*, but not perfected as himſelf acknowledges. The *Latine Tranſlation* alſo amended according to *Paulus Fagius*, and others.

5. The *Syriack* Old and New Teſt. (the native Language of *Chriſt* and his *Apoſtles*) corrected by Copies tranſcribed out of the moſt ancient and perfect *M. S.* remaining with the *Patriarch* of *Antioch*, which is according to the *old* and *ſimple Edition* (as 'tis called) tranſlated out of the *Heb.* about the *Apoſtles* times (the other *Syriack Edition* out of the *Sept.* being long after.) That of the *Paris Bibles* had many *Lacuna's*, which they ſupplied *ex proprio ingenio.*

6. The *Arabick* Old and New Teſt. corrected and compared with thoſe parts ſet out by *Erpenius* and others, and with other Copies here in publick and private Libraries.

7. The *Samaritan Pentateuch* (the old *Heb.* Text, as is conceived, about *Eſdras* his time, if not before) in the *Samaritan Character*, which is the *Old Heb. Letter*, before *Eſdras* changed it into the *Aſſyrian* (the *modern Hebrew*) after the return from *Babylon.*

8. The *Perſian Pentateuch*, by *Jacobus Thawaſus* (formerly printed by the *Jews* in the *Conſtantinop. Bibles* in *Heb. Characters*) put into *Perſian Characters* and tranſlated into *Latine*, not extant before in any of thoſe other Editions.

9. The *Perſian Evangeliſts*, with the *Latine* Verſion, which are now at the Preſſe, publiſhed by Mr. *Wheelock* a learned *Linguiſt*, and not extant heretofore.

10. The *Æthiopick Pſalms*, *Canticles*, and *New. Teſt.* with the *Latine* Verſion, not extant in any former Edition.

11. *Jonathans Targum* upon the *Pent.* The *Hieruſalem Targum* upon the *Pent.* with the *Latine* tranſlation by *Pellican* or *Taylor.* The *Maſſoreth Heb. Lat.* with *Buxtorf.* his *Clavis Maſſorethica*, and his *Caſtigationes Maſſoræ.* All which may be added, as an *Appendix* to the Old Teſt. None of them are in thoſe other Editions.

12. The ſeveral *Languages* ſhall be printed in ſeveral Columns, whereby they may all be preſented to the Readers view *at once*, whereas in the other Editions divers great Volumes muſt be turned over to compare them together.

13. Whereas there is no *Apparatus* or *various readings*, &c. in the *Paris Bibles*, and the *Apparatus* in the *Antwerp.* and *Complut.* conſiſting of *Grammars*, *Lexicons*, *Tracts*, &c. are not ſo needful now, there being ſo many helps extant ſince, and thoſe more exact. Therefore here ſhall be added, what is moſt neceſſary and proper, and yet is wanting in the former, *viz.* A juſt Volume of the *various readings* of all former *Editions* and *Copies*, in all the Languages (a work of as great uſe to the Reader, as if he had all former Copies and Editions) with ſome other things fit to be added, *viz.*

1. An *Extract* out of *Capellus* his *Critica Sacra*, and others concerning the various readings. *Lucas Brug. de variantibus locis Scripturæ*, and his two Tracts 1. *de Græcis* 2. *de Latinis varietatibus.* 2. The *Keri* and *Cetib*, &c. with the other various readings of the *Heb.* 3. The differences of the *Samar. Pentateuch* from the *Modern Heb.* collected heretofore by D. *Comber.* 4. The various readings of the 70. and the other old *Greek* Tranſlations by *Aquila*, *Theodotion*, *Symmachus*, the 5. and 6 *anonymous* Tranſlations, collected by *Nobilius* in the *Rom. Sept.* and by *Druſius* in his *Fragmenta veterum tranſlationum Græc.* to which may be added the different Readings of that ancient M. S. The *Alexandrian Sept.* (ſuppoſed by ſome to be written by S. *Tecla*) which is now about to be printed. 5. The various readings and corrections of the vulgar *Latine* collected by *Luc. Brugenſ.* in ſeveral Tracts. 6. The places reſtored in the *Chaldee Paraph.* by *Buxtorf.* with a Tract by him thereupon written, but not yet printed, and a Tract of the uſe of the *Chaldee Paraph.* by *Luc. Brugenſ.* 7. The places reſtored and corrected in the *Syr.* and *Arab.* with the various readings out of *Erpenius* and others. 8. The various readings of the New Teſt. by *Stephan. Cauſabon* and others, with the readings out of the *Greek Fathers* gathered in the *Wechel.* Edition of the 70. at *Frank.* 1597. 9. The various readings and notes upon the *Syr. Arab. Perſian*, *Cophti*, &c. Verſions of the New Teſt. out of *Lud. de Dieu*, *Munſter*, *Kirkenſten*, M. *Pocock* and others. 10. The *Idiotiſms* of the *Heb.* and *Greek.* 11. The explication of the proper Names in Script. *Heb. Greek*, *Latine.* 12. A perfect Chronology. 13. Several *Indices.*

14. Before all. 1. Divers *Prolegomena* and *Prefaces* concerning the ſeveral Editions and Tranſlations, their *Antiquity*, *Authority*, and *Vſe.* 2. *Geographical Tables* of the World. The land of *Canaan.* 3. *Arias Montanus* his *Exemplar*, *ſeu de ſacris fabricis*, and his *Aaron ſeu de veſtibus ſacris*, with the Figures cut in Braſſe. 4. *Alphabetical Tables* of the ſeveral Languages, and what elſe upon further adviſe with Learned Men ſhall be thought fit.

The Approbation of ſeveral Eminent and Learned Men.

The Approbation by learned men.

WHereas there hath been preſented unto us a Draught of an Edition of the Bible in the Original and other learned Languages, *with a proof or printed Paper, wherein the ſame are in ſeveral Columns repreſented to the Readers view* at once, *and that (as is ſuggeſted) according to better copies and Editions, then thoſe of the* Complut. Antwerp. *and* Paris Bibles, *beſides ſundry needful Additions which are wanting in them, whereby the Edition will become more perfect, and fitter for uſe then thoſe formerly mentioned, and yet the* Price *very* much leſſened; *We whoſe names are ſubſcribed, having viewed, and well conſidered the ſaid Deſigne, and being deſired to give our judgements and opinions thereof, do conceive, that both in regard of the ſaid Editions and Copies which are more exact and perfect, then thoſe followed in the other Bibles, and of the various Readings and additions mentioned in the ſaid Draught, as alſo of the method and order, wherein the ſaid Languages are digeſted, this Work will become more compleat and perfect, and alſo more uſeful then any that hath been hitherto publiſhed in that kinde, and that the printing thereof will conduce much to the Glory of God, and the publick Honour of our Nation. And therefore we do heartily deſire that it may receive all due encouragement from all whom it may concern.* Ja. Armachanus. J. Selden.

To theſe may be added the concurrent Suffrage of divers others, the moſt Reverend and Learned men of this Church, whoſe ſeveral Teſtimonies would be too long to inſert, but ſhall be produced if there be occaſion.

The Approbation of the Councel of State.

The Councel *of* State *by their Order bearing date* Sunday *the* 11 *of* July 1652. *have given their* Approbation *and* Allowance *of the Work, declaring the ſame to* very honourable, *and* deſerving encouragement. *And tis hoped they will promote the publiſhing of it.*

Propoſitions concerning the Printing of the Bible in the Original and other Learned Languages.

WHereas the former *Editions* though leſſe perfect, and not ſo fit for uſe, have been Printed at the publick Charge of *Princes* and great Perſons, and the Charge of this Work will exceed the Ability of an ordinary perſon: Whereupon divers *Perſons* of *Worth* have expreſſed their readineſs to joyn in the Charge of the *Impreſſion*, and it is hoped that others who wiſh well to *Learning* and *Religion* will aſſiſt in a Work ſo much tending to the *publick good*, and *Honour of the Church* and *Nation*, and ſo free from *Intereſt* of all parties, eſpecially conſidering, that as the Edition will be much better then any formerly made, ſo the price will be much leſſe.

Therefore for the ſecuring of all ſuch as ſhall promote ſo good a Work either by *free gift*, or *advancing* of Moneyes to be repaid by Copies, and for the encouraging of ſuch as ſhall ſolicit and ſtir up others to *contribute*, theſe Propoſitions are offered, which ſhall God willing be performed.

1. That whatſoever Moneyes ſhall be raiſed, ſhall be paid into the Hands of *William Humble* of *London* Eſquire, *Treaſurer* for this purpoſe, who will be accomptable for the Moneyes received, and will give Receipts to every one that ſhall pay in any Moneyes, whereby they may be aſſured that the ſame ſhall be employed no otherwiſe then for the uſe intended, and not iſſued out but by Warrant of ſuch perſons as are hereafter mentioned.

2. The like aſſurance ſhall be given for receiving of Copies proportionable to the ſummes ſo paied, which ſhall be put into the hands of ſome perſons Intereſted, reſiding in *London* to be delivered aſſoon as the Work ſhall be finiſhed, or otherwiſe as the ſeveral Volumes ſhall be printed, according as ſhall be adviſed by counſel on the behalf of the ſubſcribers, and this ſhall be drawn up into Articles, before any Moneyes ſhall be payed.

3. The *Treaſurer* ſhall not iſſue any Moneyes, but by Warrant under the Hands of the Lord Primate of *Armagh*, D. *William Fuller*, D. *Brune Rieves*, D. *Samuel Baker*, M. *Richard Drake*, B. D. or two of them, whereof the Lord *Primate*, or D. *Fuller*, to be one, and ſhall give *Accompt* every *ſix moneths* to four perſons appointed by thoſe that advance, to receive the Accompts of all Moneyes received, or iſſued out, which ſhall be ſhewed to all perſons intereſted who ſhall deſire the ſame.

4 Thoſe that by *free gift* or otherwiſe ſhall in any conſiderable manner further the Work, beſide *Copies* to be given them, ſhall be acknowledged *Patrons* and *Promoters* of ſo *noble a Work*.

5. Thoſe that ſhall *collect* and *raiſe any ſum* by the *free contribution* of Perſons well affected ſhall for every ten pounds have one Copie: and if any leſſer ſum of 40 s. or upwards be ſo raiſed by any at preſent, if the ſaid ſum ſhall be made up 10 li. by equal payments in four ſix *moneths* next following, he ſhall have *one perfect Copie*, and ſo according to that proportion for any greater Sum.

6 Thoſe who ſhall advance any ſum out of their own eſtate, ſhall for every 10 li. have *one Copie*, and for 50 li. *ſix Copies*, and ſo for any greater ſum, and the moneyes ſo advanced ſhall for the *Eaſe* and *Security* of the Advancers be paid thus: onely a *fifth part* in hand, and the reſt in 4 *ſix moneths*, and at every ſix moneths Payment, *Account* ſhall be given of the Moneyes formerly paid, and of the *Progreſſe* of the Work, and then they may alſo receive ſuch Volumes as ſhall be finiſhed, according to the number of Copies due to them, if they pleaſe, they paying another fift part towards the printing of the next Volume. And if 50 li. ſhall be raiſed by ſeveral perſons, the ſixth Copie ſhall be to him that procureth their ſubſcriptions.

7. The perſons that will aſſiſt in preparing of Copies correcting the Preſſe, overſeeing and managing the work, or otherwiſe in furthering the Edition, are D. *Stokes*, Mr. *Whillock*, M. *Thorndike*, Mr. *Edward Pococke*, Mr. *Graves*, Mr. *Vicars*, Mr. *Thomas Smith*, together with Dr. *Walton*, and ſome other to aſſiſt in Proſecution of Buſineſſe, &c. and if any of them ſhall be otherwiſe hindred, ſome other ſhall be nominated, for carrying on the work, wherein the Advice of the L. *Primate*, M. *Selden*, D. *Shelden*, D. *Sanderſon*, D. *Stern*, D. *Hammond*, D. *Fearne*, and other learned Men, who have approved the work ſhall be deſired, as occaſion ſhall require.

8. The work ſhall not be begun till there be enough paid in to finiſh the firſt Volume, *viz.* the *Pentateuch*, *viz.* 1500 li. nor the other Volumes, till a proportionable ſum for each be brought in, *viz.* about 1200 li.

9. It is deſired that the firſt payment of Moneyes to be advanced, may be at or before the firſt of *May*, 1653. and if it ſhall appear there is enough to print the Firſt Volume, *viz.* the *Pentateuch*, the work ſhall be begun aſſoon as things needful can be prepared, which is hoped will be within three Moneths then next following, and within three Yeers after, it is hoped the whole work will be perfected: (two Preſſes being kept at work.)

10. Whatſoever ſhall be further reaſonably deviſed or propounded for the better managing and carrying on of the Work, and ſecuring of all Perſons intereſted, ſhall be willingly aſſented unto.

Printed by *R. Norton* for *Timothie Garthwait* Stationer, at the leſſer North-gate of S. *Pauls* Church, *London*. 1652.

WE whoſe Names are ſubſcribed, do hereby promiſe to pay the ſeveral Sums by us underwritten, upon the Propoſitions for Printing the Bible in the Original and other learned Languages, according to a Deſcription, and *Specimen* thereof Printed. Which Sums ſhall be paid in one or more Payments, according as is ſubſcribed. Provided that before payment of the ſaid Moneyes, it ſhall be certified under the Hand of the Treaſurer, that the Subſcriptions and Contributions, will amount to ſuch a Sum as will be ſufficient for carrying on the Work, according to the ſaid Propoſitions: and that ſuch order be taken for ſecuring the Copies to the Subſcribers, as by advice of Counſel on their behalf ſhall be thought reaſonable, and juſt.

Mr Thornborough

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